

# Tensas Parish



*“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”*

**Healthy People 2010**

## Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Tensas	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
<b>ECONOMICS, 2000</b>				
% All persons in poverty	36.3%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	48.3%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	11.6%	7.3%	5.8%	--
<b>EDUCATION 2002-2003</b>				
School Expenditure per Student	\$10,316	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.7%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	5.4%	7.0%	--	--
<b>MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002</b>				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	11.2	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	68.5%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	55.7%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	11.1%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	12.4%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	0.0	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	347.5	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	120.9	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	0.0	5.8	5.1	1.0
<b>STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Heart	337.9	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	353.2	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	**	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	**	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	**	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003</b>				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	1.0	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	4.7	2.1	1.5	0.8
<b>HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004</b>				
	<b>Region 8</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>HP 2010</b>
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	25.7%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	28.7%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	72.5%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	80.4%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	61.5%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

### Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United States, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

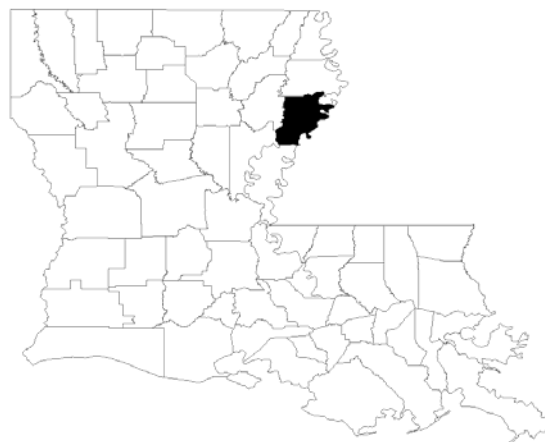
Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (\*\*Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EMS/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

**History<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Established on March 17, 1843, Tensas Parish takes its name from the Tensas Indians who originally occupied that territory. LaSalle, the famous explorer who came down the river in 1682, mentions a large and powerful tribe of Indians called the “Taensas.” Winter Quarters, the oldest house in the parish, dating from 1803, is filled with antique furnishings and Civil War memorabilia. The Tensas Parish Library and the Plantation Museum, situated in a townhouse dating from 1858, also contain items related to early plantation life.



**Parish Seat<sup>3</sup>** ..... St. Joseph

**Major Cities** (population over 5,000)  
N/A

**Parish Population<sup>4</sup>**

2000.....	6,618
2003 (estimate) .....	6,247
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	43.4%
African-American .....	55.4%
Some other race.....	1.2%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race) .....	1.3%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years .....	6.6%
5-14 .....	14.6%
15-17 .....	5.3%
18-19 .....	3.5%
20-24 .....	6.5%
25-64 .....	48.0%
65 & over .....	15.5%

**Geography and Statistics<sup>5</sup>**

Average elevation .....	79ft.
Land area in square miles .....	602
Water area in square miles .....	38.7

**Climate**

Average temperatures	
Annual .....	65°
January .....	45°
July.....	82°
Annual average rainfall.....	55 inches

**Labor Force (2001)<sup>6</sup>**

## Tensas Parish

Civilian.....	2,766
Employed .....	2,544
Unemployed.....	22
Unemployment.....	8%

## Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed .....	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate .....	4.8%

**Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)**

N/A

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism, 1998. keywords: regional information, <<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary <[http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF\\_Parishes\\_2000-Present.xls](http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls)>.